Newsletter of the North American Mycological Association

THE MYCOPHILE

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NAMA's journal goes online!

McIlvainea
JOURNAL OF AMERICAN AMATEUR MYCOLOGY
VOLUME 18 ◆ NUMBER 1 ◆ 2009
A Publication of the North American Mycological Association

VOLUME 18 of *McIlvainea* begins a new chapter as the journal makes its first appearnce online. You can find it at the NAMA website, www.namyco.org.

Incoming editor Michael Beug believes that one advantage of this change will be timely publication of material in a format that allows liberal use of color illustrations. During the year, Michael plans to add articles as received, expanding the Contents page as each new article is added. The volume will close at the end of each calendar year, with the process beginning anew with each new year.

This will ensure that timely material will not be held up while Michael waits for one critical article to finally arrive at his desk. Authors will be pleased to know that your material will appear soon after review and acceptance, and readers will get to see the new material as soon as possible.

Furthermore, *McIlvainea*'s size will be limited only by the number of interesting and well-written articles received each year, not by the costs of publishing and mailing a maximum number of pages. Michael will submit regular updates to the MYCOPHILE editor so that readers can be informed as new material is added to the journal.

McIlvainea was designed as the vehicle for papers that further the mission of NAMA "to promote, pursue, and advance the science of mycology" as well as providing a home for reports from the Toxicology Committee on mushroom poisoning and from the Voucher Preservation Committee on forays. The journal will include highly interesting papers that are pertinent to its mission. By design, some papers will be of a more technical nature and will appeal to the more technically inclined members, while other papers will be written to entertain the generalist.

Articles in the current issue include "A Mycological Florilegium: A Selection of Articles Published in 2007 and 2008," by Else C. Vellinga; "A Phylogenetic Classification of the Inocybaceae," by P. Brandon Matheny; "Names, Names, Names: When Nomenclature Meets Molecules," by Ron Petersen and Karen Hughes; two articles by Marilyn Shaw and Michael Beug: "Mushroom Mysteries: Was This a Mushroom Poisoning?" and "Animal Poisoning by *Amanita pantherina* and *Amanita muscaria:* A Commentary"; a wry tale from Andrus Voitk on "The Rewards of Indiscriminate Mycophagia"; NAMA Toxicology Committee Reports for 2007 and 2008; and Voucher Reports for the 2007 and 2008 NAMA Forays.

For these delights, and more, as well as Guidelines for Authors, visit the NAMA website today!

Bruce Eberle Accepts Post as Editor of *The Mycophile*

This marks the first issue of THE MYCOPHILE under the editorship of Bruce Eberle.

Bruce served as an environmental specialist with the U.S. Department of Transportation where he worked for over 20 years as an archeologist and historic preservation officer. He is currently retired and resides in Maryland. He is a member of the Mycological Association of Washington (DC). He is also a member of the Long Island Mycologcial Club where he spends most weekends.

In addition to his recent foray into mycological matters, Bruce is active in Trout Unlimited, a cold-water conservation group, the

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KEEPING UP WITH NAMA

New Editor comes on board, *continued from page 1*

Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group, and Watson's Tin Box, a Sherlockian scion society.

Bruce intends to carry on the traditions and high standards of previous editors; and with their assistance, the help of Regional Trustees, and club newsletter editors and the members of the Editorial Committee, he knows that it can be done.

Please let Bruce know if you have information to submit or help to offer. You may telephone him at (301) 854-3142 or contact him at the address and e-mail address in the column at right.

Tell your members about NAMA!

Promote NAMA membership in your club meetings and on your website! Let your members know that you are a NAMA affiliated club. Contact David Rust at webmaster@ namyco.org for a sample page you can easily post on the web that lists benefits and how to join.

Also, you will find a list of NAMA-affiliated clubs in North America at www. namyco.org/clubs/index.html; it's the most complete list available on the web and is constantly being updated. Create a link to this page on your club website!

NAMA needs to update e-mail addresses for Roster

Please contact our Membership Secretary with your current e-mail address right away! This is very important as she has found a huge number of invalid e-mail addresses while trying to get information to members. Send Ann an e-mail at annsticher@charter.net. And when you contact Ann, you can request that she send you an electronic copy of the NAMA Roster (PDF).

DUES ARE PAST DUE!

If you have not paid your NAMA dues for 2009, this will be the last issue of The Mycophile and the last copy of *FUNGI Magazine* (unless you're a regular subsccriber) that you will receive. Don't miss out! Send your name, address, home and work phone numbers, e-mail address, and **your check for $35.00 made out to NAMA** to the Membership Secretary, Ann Bornstein, 61 Devon Court, Watsonville, CA 95076-1160.

Call for nominations

Nominations are in order for the positions of President, 1st Vice-President and Treasurer. Please consider members in your club who might be capable and willing to serve these important positions to keep NAMA functioning effectively. The name, the position, and contact information should be sent to the Nominating Committee which is chaired by Adele Mehta, 2nd Vice-President. Adele's e-mail is a.mehta@seniorcommunity.org.

Attention mycophotographers!!

The Photography Committee will be providing the rules and the application form for the 2009 Photography Contest on the NAMA website. Please check the site for all the information you will need to enter and potentially WIN this contest.

Moving?

Please send your new address, ***two weeks*** before you move, to

Ann Bornstein
NAMA Membership Secretary
61 Devon Court
Watsonville, CA 95076-1160
annstitcher@charter. net

Otherwise—you may not be getting your newsletter for a while. Each issue, several *Mycophiles* are returned as undeliverable because of no forwarding address on file. NAMA is charged ***seventy cents*** for each returned or forwarded newsletter.

NAMA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions to support the scientific and educational activities of the Association are always welcome and may be deductible as allowed by law. Gifts of any amount may be made for special occasions, such as birthdays and anniversaries, and for memorials.

Special categories include
Friend of NAMA: $500–900
Benefactor: $1000–4900
Patron: $5000 and up

Send contributions to
Judith McCandless, Treasurer
330 Wildwood Place
Louisville, KY40206-2523
judithmc@bellsouth.net

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NMMS Foray
Taos, New Mexico
August 23–25

Registration is still open. This year's foray will feature microscopy and vouchering on the 23rd and 24th, and on the 25th if necessary. Foray mycologist is Vera Evenson.

For more details, check the New Mexico Mycological Society website or e-mail Libba Campbell at abqlibba@comcast.net.

Simms Camp
Newfoundland
Sept. 11–13, 2009

Visit www.nlmushrooms.ca for more information.

36th Annual Cain Foray
Toronto, Ontario
Sept. 18–20, 2009

See www.myctor.org/cainforay.html for details.

Wildacres Regional Foray
Wildacres, North Carolina
September 24–27

Registration filled! *Note to self: apply earlier next year.*

NEMF Sam Ristich Foray
Cape Cod, Massachusetts
Oct. 15–18, 2009

Hosted by the Boston Mycological Club. Registration is still open. For more information: nemf.org/files/2009/2009.html.

Plus a pre-foray workshop with Gary Lincoff at Eagle Hill, ME, October 10–15, 2009.

25th Annual Mushroom Gathering
Brightenbush Hot Springs Resort, near Detroit, Oregon
October 22–26

The 2009 Mushroom Conference will focus on mushrooms as food. Patrice Benson will share techniques about gourmet cooking and mushroom preservation. Dr. Tom Odell will teach proper mushroom identification for the purposes of eating wild foraged mushrooms safely. Mushroom feasting will be directed by Chef Michael Blackwell at the Cooking and Tasting event.

More info about the conference is at www.mushroominc.org and www.breitenbush.com

NAMA Annual Foray
Lafayette, Louisiana
November 26–29, 2009

Hosted and coordinated by the Gulf States Mycological Society—NAMA's very first foray in the state of Louisiana. The Gulf States Mycological Society will treat us to the fascinating and colorful culture of Acadiana and the experience of this unique section of our country. The registration form is on pages 5–6 of this issue. Look for more information on our website: www.namyco.org.

Note: You must be a member of NAMA to attend.

New Educational Programs!

Michael Beug has revised the following programs in the Loan section of NAMA's Educational Programs list:

#32 Introduction to Mushrooms

#33 Naming Mushrooms: Who's My Daddy?

#34 Morels and Other Spring Ascomycetes

#35 Snowbank Mushrooms and Western Spring Ascomycetes

#36 Reflections on Poisonous Mushrooms

Michael has also prepared a new program:

#53 Mushrooms of Idaho: In Memory of Orson Miller

These programs will be available on loan *only* to NAMA members and affiliated clubs, through the NAMA Web site: www.namyco.org. Each DVD contains a PowerPoint® presentation with embedded narration. The programs are designed so that they can be customized by individual clubs, and the DVDs include Instructions for deleting slides or adding additional slides of special interest.

Ordering information for NAMA members can be found on the website (www.namyco.org), and while you're there, be sure to check all the other great programs for rent and purchase.

—Sandy Sheine
NAMA Education Chair

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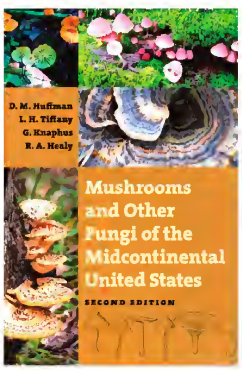
NAMA Speakers & Foray Mycologists Bureau Now Online

NAMA has launched a comprehensive online Speakers and Foray Mycologists Bureau. Over 45 professional and amateur mycologists have offered their services for club meetings and forays. Each mycologist has listed his or her general topic of interest or sample talk titles, a web page with details, and contact information, generally an e-mail address.

You can find this page at www. namyco.org/education/speakers_ bureau.html in the NAMA Education section. We would like to thank Dr. Michael Beug for putting this list together.

BOOKS REVIEWED

Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the Midcontinental United States, *2nd ed.*, by D.M. Huffman, L. H. Tiffany, G. Knaphus, and R. A. Healy. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 1-58729-627-6. ISBN-13: 978-1-58729-627-7. $39.95 paper. www.uiowapress.org



For many years mushroom field guides written for North America attempted to cover all, or nearly all, of the continent. This led to much duplication in coverage of species and frustration on the part of users, who frequently could find only a small percentage of their local mushrooms in these guides. Beginning in the late 1980s, however, a number of all-color regionally oriented guides began to appear. *Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the Midcontinental United States* was one of the first of these more focused treatments. Amazingly, nearly 20 years have passed since the publication of the hard-to-find first edition; happily, a new enlarged edition is now available. As is true for most regional publications, precisely delineating the region where the book will be useful is not easy; however, it generally corresponds to the area encompassed by Iowa and the surrounding Midwestern prairie states, a region once covered mostly by tall grass prairies and woodlands of the eastern deciduous forest and lake states forest.

Many NAMA members will recall that lead author Don Huffman is one of our past presidents and emeritus professor of biology at Central College (Pella, Iowa). Lois Tiffany and the late George Knaphus were professors of botany at Iowa State University (Ames). New to this edition is Rosanne Healy, last seen glued to her microscope in the identification room at the 2007 Pipestem foray, who is currently pursuing a graduate degree in mycology at the University of Minnesota.

The content and structure of the book are typical for a field guide. The first 30 pages comprise an introduction to basic mushroom biology and morphology, general descriptions of major morphological groups, names and classification, edibility and toxicity, and mushroom habitats, followed by keys to the major morphological groups. This material is supported by attractive line illustrations. The mushroom descriptions, photographs, and detailed keys cover over 300 pages, and the book winds up with a glossary, lists of general and technical references, and index. At 370 pages, the book is nearly 50 pages longer than the first edition, and the page size is about 10% larger.

Keys are provided to nearly all of the species covered. They are fairly simple, based on macro characters; and when I tested some of them, they worked well. The species descriptions cover the essentials in a concise, readable fashion. Over 250 species are featured, including a number of truffles and false truffles, a welcome addition. Comments for most species are brief, but many provide good updates on current classification issues and recent name changes. This portion of the book is attractive and well-produced; however, it includes an overabundance of white space. Many pages are half blank. I would like to have seen this space used for lengthier comments or, better yet, additional species. The species photos are of good size, and most illustrate the critical features of the mushrooms clearly. Many of them are also quite attractive; and, overall, the photos are noticeably improved compared to those in the first edition.

In summary, this is a fine, reliable field guide for an area not often visited by NAMA forays and mycologists in general, and it should prove indispensable for mushroom-hunters in the mid-section of our continent.

—Steve Trudell, Seattle, Washington

Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest, by Steve Trudell & Joe Ammirati. Portland, Ore.: Timber Press Field Guide, 2009. 349 pages with more than 450 species and over 500 color photographs plus picture keys and drawings by Marsha Mello. ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-935-5, $27.95, paper.

This beautiful book is a must to own for anyone planning to hunt mushrooms in the Pacific Northwest, an area that encompasses all of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington plus parts of northern California, western Montana, and southern British Columbia, as well as southern Alaska. The writing is informative, the photography is excellent, and the taxonomic issues are so up-to-date that mushroomers from other areas are also going to want to add a copy to their library.

The book appears sturdy and well bound, and at 6"x 8.5"x 7/8" it is small enough to fit into a day pack.

Steve Trudell, an affiliate professor in the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington, is an award-winning photographer who has been studying mushrooms and mushroom ecology for over 30 years. Joe Ammirati is professor of biology and teaches mycology and botany at the University of Washington.

(*continued on page 7*)

The North American Mycological Association Presents Foray 2009:

In the Heart of Cajun Country

November 26–29, 2009 • Lafayette, Louisiana

Hosted by the Gulf States Mycological Association

Name of each participant as you wish it to appear on your name tag. Deadline for registration ***October 19, 2009.***

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: Day ( )_____ Evening ( ) _____ e-mail: _____

Local club affiliation(s) for name tags: _____

I/we prefer: ❑ One bed ❑ Two beds ❑ Nonsmoking ❑ Smoking ❑ Please find me a roommate.

I want to share a room with _____ Assign roommate: ❑ Male ❑ Female

❑ I require vegetarian meals or have other special concerns: _____

_____

❑ I am a VENDOR. # display tables needed____ Items for sale: _____

_____

REGISTRATION

Conference: Thurs. Nov. 26 to Sun. Nov. 29

a room for 3 nights, 8 meals (Thurs. dinner–Sun. breakfast), all programs and forays ..... #_____ @ $320 each $_____

Waiver reason ..... # _____ @ 0

Single supplement ..... #_____ @ $120 $_____

Off site (meals, programs, forays, no rooms) ..... #_____ @ $199 each $_____

NAMA Trustees Meeting: Tues. Nov 24 to Thurs. Nov. 26

a room for 2 nights, 6 meals (Tues. dinner–Thurs. lunch) ..... #_____ @ $155 each $_____

Single supplement ..... #_____ @ $ 80 $_____

Microscopy Workshop: Sun. Nov. 22 to Thurs. Nov 26

a room for 4 nights, 12 meals (Sun. dinner–Thurs. lunch), microscopes and all materials ..... #_____ @ $400 each $_____

Single supplement ..... #_____ @ $156 $_____

NAMA membership (required if not current) ..... #_____ @ $ 35 $_____
(You must be a NAMA or GSMS member to attend.)

Mycology student discount: Subtract ..... #_____ @ –$100 each $ (_____)

University: _____

Professor: _____

Make checks payable to GSMS/NAMA 2009. **Mail to** GSMS/NAMA 2009, Patricia Lewis, 262 CR 3062, Newton, TX 75966-7003
Questions? Call Pat at 409-423-3776; e-mail to plewis@jas.net.

If you are interested in arriving early or staying late at the Holiday Inn-Lafayette at the conference room rate, please discuss this with Patricia Lewis.

We must have a signed release for each person attending the foray.

Liability Release and Promise Not to Sue

I understand there is some risk in participating in a mushroom foray and conference: all those risks one assumes by being away from home, risk associated with moving about in fields and woods, risk involved in eating wild mushrooms, risk of losing personal property by theft or misplacement, and all other expected and unexpected risks. In registering for or attending this foray, I agree to assume total responsibility during this event for my own safety and well-being, and that of any minor children under my care, and for the protection of my and their personal property. I release The North American Mycological Association (NAMA), and The Gulf States Mycological Society (GSMS), their trustees, officers, employees, contractors, and all other persons assisting in the planning and presentation of this event from liability for any sickness, injury, or loss I or any minor children under my care may suffer during this event or as a result of attending and participating. I further promise not to file a lawsuit or make a claim against any of the persons listed above, even if they negligently cause me or my minor children injury or loss. Finally, I agree to hold NAMA and GSMS harmless from any liability they may incur as a result of any damages to any property I may cause. This release and promise is part of the consideration I give in order to attend this event. I understand it affects my legal rights. I intend it to apply not only to me but to anyone who may have the right to make a claim on my behalf.

Signature 1: _____ Date: _____

Print Name 1: _____

Signature 2: _____ Date: _____

Print Name 2: _____

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

If you can help in any way, please let us know. The volunteer time of our members is what continues to make NAMA forays such a success and great time for everyone. The coordinator will contact you with details prior to the foray.

Display & Identification Area: ❑ Set up ❑ Assist identification ❑ Clean up

Mycophagy: Saturday

❑ Set up ❑ Preparation ❑ Clean up

❑ Bring mushrooms: specify type and species: _____

_____

Presentations: ❑ Assist with audio-visual set-up

❑ I have a digital projector I will bring for back-up.

I will bring the following items for the silent auction: _____

_____

Books reviewed, cont. from page 4

Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest more than doubles the number of species covered by its predecessor, while at the same time providing updated taxonomic, toxicological, and ecological information.

In "Preliminaries" the authors tell the reader what mushrooms are and how to hunt for them and collect them safely and in a manner that they can be identified later. They go on to discuss mushroom ecology and mushroom toxicology. This section is followed by a discussion of how to identify mushrooms and how to use the book. These sections are well-written and useful to beginners.

Individuals unfamiliar with mushrooms can start the identification process with the picture key to mushroom types inside the front cover. For more experienced individuals, the starting point is the written key to morphological groups (page 38), which leads the reader to the various color-coded sections of the book. Each section begins with a key to the genera included in that group. There are no keys to species, which in my view makes sense. In my classes I have long observed students struggling through keys to species and trying to fit their mushroom into a key which covers the mushrooms in the book but not necessarily the mushroom the individual is trying to identify. As the authors so aptly point out, there are probably over 5,000 species in the Pacific Northwest, far more than could be included in any affordable field guide. Drs. Trudell and Ammirati chose to describe and illustrate those species that were encountered frequently enough that they could obtain good-quality color photographs and that met several additional criteria, including

- a wide variety of mushroom types and species;
- the more common characteristic PNW species, especially good edibles and notorious poisoners;
- species that occur only, or mainly, in the PNW;
- species mentioned but not illustrated in other field guides;
- unusual or rare species not covered in most other field guides.

The first mushrooms discussed are the Chanterelles. The section begins with a discussion of their general physical features followed by a description of our current understanding of the evolutionary relationships of Chanterelles to each other and to other major groups of fungi. This pattern of giving the reader an overview of the physical features of the genera in the section, followed by a discussion of how the genera are related to each other and to other mushrooms, is continued throughout the book and is well done. I found it most interesting.

Moving on to the descriptions of the individual species, I really like the way important edible species like *Cantharellus formosus* are discussed in considerable detail with multiple illustrations, including a photographic comparison to non-edible look-alikes (pages 43–44, which are illustrated). Page 88 illustrates how the authors deal with a poisonous species and warns readers about the possibility of mistaking *Amanita smithiana* for Matsutake.

The descriptions of species do not follow the usual pattern of giving the dimensions, features, and color of the cap, then gills, then stalk, etc.; instead they follow a discussion format that provides the reader with a good sense of what to look for in each species described. They also give the most recent older name for species that have recently been renamed. Where a mushroom has an accepted common name, the common name is given; but no attempt is made to make up a common name when one is not already widely accepted.

I appreciated the insights into taxonomy scattered throughout the book. The authors talk about when a species or even a group of mushrooms needs more study before a name or names can be accurately applied. In several cases, the authors give the reader advanced notice of, and reasons for, name changes that are on the horizon; thus, the reader learns about mushrooms in the context of an

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THE MYCOPHILE

Books reviewed, cont. from page 7

evolving science. Individuals may well be inspired to take up one or more of the taxonomic questions raised throughout the book.

As an individual who has collected, photographed and studied mushrooms in the Pacific Northwest for over 40 years, I was surprised at the number of species included that were new to me. All of my favorite groups of edibles are present, as are all of the poisonous mushrooms that I worry about people accidentally picking. The photographs, mostly by Steve Trudell, are excellent educational images, generally showing the critical features needed for identification, though in some cases the small size of the images makes it hard to discern an important feature. The images were the same size as those found in ***Mushrooms of Northeastern North America*** (A. E. Bessette, A. R. Bessette, & D. W. Fischer) and in ***North American Mushrooms*** (O. K. Miller & H. H. Miller) but substantially smaller than those found in ***The New Savory Wild Mushroom*** or ***Mushrooms Demystified*** (D. Arora). I would also like to have seen 500 or 600 pages devoted to PNW mushrooms so that the authors could have squeezed in more than two species of *Leccinum,* more of the diversity of false truffles, more of the diversity of polypores, etc. However, given the limitations of space and budget, the authors did a great job of choosing what to illustrate while still giving the reader a sense of what is out there that could not be described in just one book.

—Michael W. Beug

Mushroom of the Month will be back next time!